

From: BEVERLY FOURIER [fourierb@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2007 6:56 PM
To: apcb
Cc: Harvey, Monica; Darton, Terry
Subject: Mirant Potomac River Power Generating Plant
October 26, 2007

Dear Virginia Air Pollution Control Board:

Please confirm if this is the correct email for commenting on the Mirant Potomac River Power Generating Plant new permit #70228.

Because I have adult-onset chronic bronchitis and reactive airways, my health has been adversely affected over the past two summers by the use of trona at the Potomac River Mirant plant in Alexandria, Virginia. During the summers of 2006 and 2007, I have experienced excessive breathing problems and my bronchial tubes have been inflamed by an unpleasant "chalky" material in the air, especially during stagnant weather conditions. I have also developed strange rashes on my forearms, coinciding with the time period for use of trona at the Mirant Plant. I have had to avoid spending time outside the past two summers, and have had to spend considerable amounts of money to try to correct the burning sensation and fatigue from this air pollution. I only learned this fall about the use of the trona, and find it outrageous that the public is not informed about pollutants that may affect the public health.

I therefore urgently request that the Mirant Potomac Power Plant be closed down. I find it outrageous that a plant emitting sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, mercury, lead, zinc, thorium, cadmium and dioxin, as well as trona, is allowed to operate in an urban residential area of Northern Virginia. I now fear premature death from these pollutants.

I cannot understand why the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has failed, to date, to require scrubbers or other modern cleaning technology for the Mirant Plant, as has been required for its plants in the state of Maryland. Has corruption been involved? Do board members have conflicts of interest? Have these possibilities been investigated? Do any of the Air Pollution Control Board members have a breathing disorder? If not, how can they understand the medical problems and suffering involved for affected citizens?

I therefore wish to register my health complaints, and state for the record that I am strongly against use of any experimental additives such as trona or sodium bicarbonate. These will only increase the fine particulates, and create new health problems. Such problems, if allowed to continue without being corrected by the DEQ, will eventually result in a class action lawsuit by persons adversely affected, such as myself. Thus, I believe it is in the interest of Virginia DEQ to close the plant down now.

Thank you for the opportunity to register my complaints and concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Beverly A. Fourier
2411 N. Monroe St.
Arlington, VA 22207
Tel. 703-243-5034

fourierb@verizon.net